

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A shelf-stable oatmeal composition, the oatmeal composition comprising a an evenly distributed mixture of:

an oatmeal component having from about 50% to about 100% by weight of processed oats, based on the total weight of the oatmeal component; and

a vitamin C component having from about 6 mg to about 1000 mg of a triple encapsulated vitamin C component, the triple encapsulated vitamin C component being selected from the group consisting of triple encapsulated ascorbic acid and triple encapsulated salts of ascorbic acid, wherein the triple encapsulated vitamin C component comprises at least one coating of an oil/fat constituent and at least one coating of a polymer constituent;

wherein the triple encapsulated vitamin C component is stable for at least twelve months in the oatmeal composition.

2. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 1, wherein said processed oats comprises from about 60% to about 97.5% by weight, based upon the total weight of the oatmeal component.

3. (Previously Presented) The oatmeal composition as in claim 1, wherein said vitamin C component comprises from about 6 mg to about 500 mg of a triple encapsulated vitamin C component.

4. (Previously Presented) The oatmeal composition as in claim 1, wherein said vitamin C component comprises from about 12 mg to about 250 mg of a triple encapsulated vitamin C component.

5. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 1, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated ascorbic acid.

6. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 1, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is an alkali earth metal salt of ascorbic acid which has been triple

encapsulated.

7. (Previously Presented) The oatmeal composition as in claim 6, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated sodium ascorbate.

8. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 6, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated potassium ascorbate.

9. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 6, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated calcium ascorbate.

10. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 1, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component comprises at least one vegetable oil coating and at least one ethyl cellulose coating.

11. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 1, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component comprises two vegetable oil coatings and one ethyl cellulose coating.

12. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 11, wherein said ethyl cellulose coating is between said two vegetable oil coatings.

13. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 11, wherein said two vegetable oil coatings are of the same vegetable oil compound.

14. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 11, wherein said two vegetable oil coatings are of different vegetable oil compounds.

15. (Currently Amended) A shelf-stable oatmeal composition, the oatmeal composition comprising ~~a~~ an evenly distributed mixture of:

an oatmeal component including: from about 50% to about 100% by weight processed oats; from about 0% to about 35% by weight sweetener; from about 0% to about 5% by weight

salt; and from about 0% to about 5% of a vitamin and mineral blend, each % by weight being based upon the total weight of the oatmeal component; and

a vitamin C component having from about 6 mg to about 1000 mg of a triple encapsulated vitamin C component, the triple encapsulated vitamin C component including: from about 6 mg to about 1000 mg of a triple encapsulated vitamin C component and being selected from the group consisting of triple encapsulated ascorbic acid and triple encapsulated salts of ascorbic acid wherein the triple encapsulated vitamin C component comprises at least one coating of an oil/fat constituent and at least one coating of a polymer constituent;

wherein the triple encapsulated vitamin C component is stable for at least twelve months in the oatmeal composition.

16. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 15, wherein said oatmeal component further includes from about 0% to about 5% by weight of flavorings, based on the total weight of the oatmeal component.

17. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 15, wherein said oatmeal component further includes from about 0% to about 5% by weight of a binding agent or texture modifying agent, based on the total weight of the oatmeal component.

18. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 15, wherein said oatmeal component further includes from about 0% to about 25% by weight of inclusion pieces, based on the total weight of the oatmeal component.

19. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 15, wherein said oatmeal component further includes: from about 0% to about 5% by weight of flavorings, based on the total weight of the oatmeal component; from about 0% to about 5% by weight of a binding agent or texture modifying agent, based on the total weight of the oatmeal component; and from about 0% to about 25% by weight of inclusion pieces, based on the total weight of the oatmeal component.

20. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 15, wherein said processed oats comprises from about 60 to about 97.5% by weight, based upon the total weight of the oatmeal

component.

21. (Previously Presented) The oatmeal composition as in claim 15, wherein said vitamin C component comprises from about 6 mg to about 500 mg of a triple encapsulated vitamin C component.

22. (Previously Presented) The oatmeal composition as in claim 15, wherein said vitamin C component comprises from about 12 mg to about 250 mg of a triple encapsulated vitamin C component.

23. (Original) The oatmeal composition of claim 15, wherein said sweetener comprises from about 5% to about 30% by weight of the oatmeal component.

24. (Original) The oatmeal composition of claim 15, wherein said salt comprises from about 0.5% to about 4.5% by weight of the oatmeal component.

25. (Original) The oatmeal composition of claim 16, wherein said flavorings comprise from about 0.5% to about 4.5% by weight of the oatmeal component.

26. (Original) The oatmeal composition of claim 17, wherein said binding agent or texture modifying agent is a gum which comprises from about 0.5% to about 4.5% by weight of the oatmeal component.

27. (Original) The oatmeal composition of claim 18, wherein said inclusion pieces comprise from about 3% to about 25% by weight of the oatmeal component.

28. (Original) The oatmeal composition of claim 27, wherein said inclusion pieces are selected from the group consisting of fruit originating materials and nut originating materials.

29. (Original) The oatmeal composition of claim 15, wherein said vitamin and mineral blend comprises from about 0.1% to about 3% by weight of the oatmeal composition.

30. (Original) The oatmeal composition of claim 29, wherein said vitamin and mineral blend excludes a vitamin C component.
31. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 15, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated ascorbic acid.
32. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 15, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is a triple encapsulated alkali earth metal salt of ascorbic acid.
33. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 32, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated sodium ascorbate.
34. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 32, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated potassium ascorbate.
35. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 32, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated calcium ascorbate.
36. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 15, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component comprises at least one vegetable oil coating and at least one ethyl cellulose coating.
37. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 36, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component comprises two vegetable oil coatings and one ethyl cellulose coating.
38. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 37, wherein said ethyl cellulose coating is between said two vegetable oil coatings.
39. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 37, wherein said two vegetable oil coatings are of the same vegetable oil compound.

40. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 37, wherein said two vegetable oil coatings are of different vegetable oil compounds.

41. (Currently Amended) A shelf-stable oatmeal composition, the oatmeal composition comprising a an evenly distributed mixture of:

an oatmeal component having from about 50% to about 100% by weight processed oats, based on the total weight of the oatmeal component;

and a vitamin C component having from about 10% to about 1667% of the recommended daily allowance of a vitamin C component selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid and salts of ascorbic acid which has been triple encapsulated, wherein the triple encapsulated vitamin C component comprises at least one coating of an oil/fat constituent and at least one coating of a polymer constituent;

wherein the triple encapsulated vitamin C component is stable for at least twelve months in the oatmeal composition.

42. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 41, wherein said processed oats comprises from about 60% to about 97.5% by weight, based upon the total weight of the oatmeal component.

43. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 41, wherein said vitamin C component comprises from about 10% to about 833% of the recommended daily value of a vitamin C component which has been triple encapsulated.

44. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 41, wherein said vitamin C component comprises from about 20% to about 417% of the recommended daily value of a vitamin C component which has been triple encapsulated.

45. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 41, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated ascorbic acid.

46. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 41, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is an alkali earth metal salt of ascorbic acid which has been triple encapsulated.

47. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 46, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated sodium ascorbate.

48. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 46, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated potassium ascorbate.

49. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 46, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component is triple encapsulated calcium ascorbate.

50. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 41, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component comprises a vegetable oil coating and an ethyl cellulose coating.

51. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 41, wherein said triple encapsulated vitamin C component comprises two vegetable oil coatings and one ethyl cellulose coating.

52. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 51, wherein said ethyl cellulose coating is between said two vegetable oil coatings.

53. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 51, wherein said two vegetable oil coatings are of the same vegetable oil compound.

54. (Original) The oatmeal composition as in claim 51, wherein said two vegetable oil coatings are of different vegetable oil compounds.